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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,200	11/07/2001	Mitsunori Omokawa	P 284086 T4YKA-01S1385-1	4668
909	7590	03/21/2006	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP P.O. BOX 10500 MCLEAN, VA 22102			CHOWDHURY, NIGAR	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2621	

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/986,200	Applicant(s) OMOKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner Nigar Chowdhury	Art Unit 2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,262,951 by Shimizu et al.

In claim 1, an image reproducing apparatus reproducing image information from a recording medium, comprising:

- A reproduction processor reproducing the image information stored in the recording medium (Fig. 1, Col. 1 line 9-11)
- A key input section having a skip key (Col. 4 line 52)
- A first skip processor, when the skip key is pressed one time, skipping the reproduction of the image information by the reproduction processor for a first predetermined period and resuming the reproduction of the image information by the reproduction processor after the first predetermined period is passed (Fig. 3, Col. 4 line 35-40, 57-63)

- A second skip processor, when the skip key is pressed twice in a certain period, skipping the reproduction of the image information by the reproduction processor for a second predetermined period having the first predetermined period and a third predetermined period which is longer than the first predetermined period and resuming the reproduction of the image information by the reproduction processor after the second predetermined period is passed (Col. 4 line 64-67, Col. 5 line 1-3)

Apparatus claims 2, 4, 5 are rejected for the same reason as discussed in the corresponding apparatus claim 1 above.

Method claim 7 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in the corresponding apparatus claim 1 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 6, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,262,951 by Shimizu et al.

In claim 3, Shimizu teaches an image reproducing apparatus reproducing image information from a recording medium, comprising:

- A reproduction processor reproducing the image information stored in the recording medium; a key input section having a skip key (Fig. 1, Col. 1 line 9-11)
- A first skip processor, when the skip key is pressed one time, skipping the reproduction of the image information by the reproduction processor for a first predetermined period and resuming the reproduction of the image information by the reproduction processor after the first predetermined period is passed (Fig. 3, Col. 4 line 35-40, 57-63)
- A second skip processor, when the skip key is pressed twice in a certain period and when a first skip corresponding to the first pressing of the skip key has not completed (Col. 4 line 66, by the reference it is possible to press the skip key button at any time and increase the period of skipping), skipping the reproduction of the image information by the reproduction processor for a second predetermined period which is longer than the first predetermined period and resuming the reproduction of the image information by the reproduction processor after the second predetermined period is passed (Col. 4 line 64-67, Col. 5 line 1-3)

Reference fails to teach a third predetermined period shorter than the second predetermined period.

Moreover, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have third predetermined period shorter than the second predetermined period like the reference has the period of the skipping can be increased for viewer convenience.

Claims 6, 8 are rejected for the same reason as discussed in the corresponding claim 3 above.

Conclusion

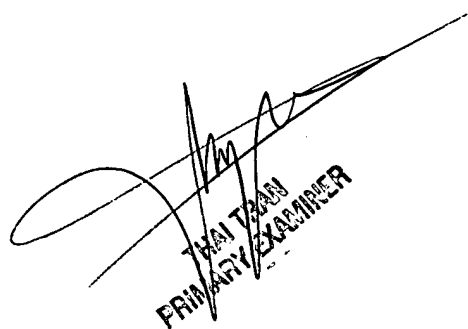
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nigar Chowdhury whose telephone number is 571-272-8890. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2616

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NIC
03/17/2006


TAM TIAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER